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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/802,367	03/09/2001	Michael E. Last	LMTT-03	8322

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EXAMINER

MOONEYHAM, JANICE A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3629

DATE MAILED: 01/12/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/802,367

Applicant(s)

LAST, MICHAEL E.

Examiner

Jan Mooneyham

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 March 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120**

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### DETAILED ACTION

1. This letter is in response to the applicant's communication filed on March 3, 2001.

Claims 1-23 are currently pending in this application.

#### *Information Disclosure Statement*

2. The information disclosure statement filed July 2, 2003 in the Petition to Make Special fails to comply with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(1), which requires a list of all patents, publications, or other information submitted for consideration by the Office. It has been placed in the application file, but the information referred to therein has not been considered.

#### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

3. **Claims 1-3, 6-8, 15, 16, 18-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Germain (SU Patent 36,346) (hereinafter referred to as Germain).**

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**Referring to Claim 1:**

Germain discloses a system for posting available time slot information to a network hub from a plurality of network nodes, the time slot posting system comprising:

a hub web server adapted to serve web pages and to accept time slot information; and  
a web browser at each of a plurality of network nodes, each web browser adapted to accept time slot information inputted by a network node user, to receive web pages served by the hub web server, and to provide time slot information to the hub web server; wherein each network node is associated with a web address by which the respective web browser can access the hub web server (col. 2, lines 31-42, col. 5 lines 1-27, Fig. 2 (34), Fig. 8).

**Referring to Claim 2:**

Germain further discloses the time slot posting system according to Claim 1 further comprising a time slot posting page associated with each of the respective network nodes and served by the hub web server, wherein each time slot posting page comprises a list of time slots available at the respective network node (col. 5, lines 16-27, Fig. 8, step 144, col. 11, lines 47-52).

**Referring to Claim 3:**

Germain discloses the time slot posting system according to Claim 2 wherein each time slot posting page further comprises user selection means associated with each element in the list of time slots available at the respective network node, the user selection means adapted to enable the respective network node user to select from among the respective list of time slots available and to communicate selection data to the hub web server (col. 5, lines 16-17, Fig. 8, step 144, col. 11, lines 47-52)

**Referring to Claim 6:**

Germain further discloses the time slot posting system according to Claim 1 wherein the hub web server further comprises a time slot template, wherein the hub web server is further adapted to enable a network node user associated with a network node

to-create the time slot template using the respective web browser (col. 5, lines 16-17, Fig. 8, step 144, col. 11, lines 47-52).

**Referring to Claim 7:**

Germain discloses a system for posting available golf tee times from a golf course to a reservations hub so that prospective golfers may access an updated list of available tee times and make tee time reservations through the reservations hub, the tee time posting system comprising: a tee time reservations hub comprising:

a web server adapted to serve at least one course input web page comprising tee time availability information to respective golf course web browsers (Fig. 8, col. 1, lines 11-17, col. 2, lines 31-42, col. 5, lines 1-27, col. 6, lines 55-67); and

a database (34) comprising tee time information associated with each of a plurality of golf courses; and

a plurality of golf course web browsers each adapted to browse the course input web page associated with the respective golf course and to provide tee time availability inputs to the tee time reservations hub through the golf course web browser (col. 5, lines 18-20)

**Referring to Claim 8:**

Germain discloses the tee time posting system according to Claim 7 wherein the web server is further adapted to serve golfer web pages containing multiple-course tee time information to a plurality of prospective golfers so that the golfers may select and reserve tee times from a list of tee times available at a plurality of golf courses (col. 5, lines 16-27).

**Referring to Claim 15:**

Germain discloses a method for posting available golf tee times by a golf course to a tee time reservations hub so that prospective golfers may access updated tee time availability information, the method comprising the steps of.

at the tee time reservations hub, receiving a web page request from a golf course web browser (Fig. 8);

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in response to the web page request, serving a tee time posting page comprising a list of future tee times at the respective golf course and a tee time input interface; and receiving, from the tee time input interface via the golf course web browser, a posting input indicating which elements in the list of future tee times are to be available to the tee time reservations hub ( Fig. 8, col. 2, lines 31-42, col. 4, lines 4565, col. 5, lines 1-27, col. 11, lines 47 thru col. 12, line 8).

**Referring to Claim 16:**

Germain further discloses the golf tee time posting method according to Claim 15 further comprising the steps of:

serving a tee sheet template page comprising a tee time form and a template input interface (Fig. 8); and

receiving, from the template input interface via the golf course web browser, a completed tee time form associated with the structure of a tee time management system used by the golf course (Fig. 8, col. 11, lin 47 thru col. 12, line 8).

**Referring to Claim 18-20**

Germain further discloses the golf tee time posting method according to Claim 15 wherein the tee time posting page serving step comprises the step of determining which elements in the list of future tee times have previously been posted to the reservations hub (fig. 8 (144, 152); further comprising the step of, in response to the posting input, posting a list of available tee times on a tee time reservations web page so that prospective golfers may reserve tee times (Fig. 8); and wherein the tee time posting page serving step comprises the step of serving a list of next-day tee times at the respective golf course (Fig. 8, 144, 152).

**Referring to Claims 21-23:**

Germain discloses a system for displaying available golf tee times from a golf course to prospective golfers so that the prospective golfers may access an updated list of available tee times and make tee time reservations through a reservations hub, the tee time posting system comprising:

a tee time reservations hub comprising:

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a web server adapted to serve at least one tee time web page comprising tee time availability information associated with each of a plurality of golf courses (Fig. 8, 142); and a database comprising tee time information associated with respective golf courses (Fig. 2); and

a plurality of golfer web browsers each adapted to browse the tee time web page and to provide tee time reservation inputs to the tee time reservations hub through the golfer web browser (Fig. 8, col. 11, line 46 thru col. 12, line 8) and wherein the web server is further adapted to serve tee time web pages containing multiple-course tee time information so that the prospective golfers may select and reserve tee times from a list of tee times available at a plurality of golf courses (Fig. 8, 142) and wherein the web server is further adapted to serve tee time web pages containing a subset of tee times available from multiple courses so that the prospective golfers may select and reserve tee times from a subset of the list of available tee times (Fig. 8).

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

**4. Claims 4, 5, 9-14 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Germain as applied to Claims 1, 7, and 15 in view of www.linkstime.com (hereinafter referred to as Linkstime)**

**Referring to Claims 4 and 5:**

Germain discloses a time slot posting system. However, Germain does not disclose wherein the user selection means comprises a web form check box.

Linkstime discloses a web form check box (page 8)

Linkstime further discloses the time slot posting system according to Claim 3 wherein the user selection means comprises a web form radio button (page 8, Step 1)

**Referring to Claim 9:**

Germain discloses the tee time posting system according to Claim 7. However, Germain does not disclose wherein each of the course input webpages comprises:

- a list of future tee times at the respective golf course; and
- an input interface to enable a golf course user to select from the list of future tee times which of the future tee times are to be available to prospective golfers for reservation through the tee time reservations hub.

However, Linkstime discloses wherein each of the course input webpages comprises:

- a list of future tee times at the respective golf course (page 8 – step 1); and
- an input interface to enable a golf course user to select from the list of future tee times which of the future tee times are to be available to prospective golfers for reservation through the tee time reservations hub (page 8 – step 2).

**Referring to Claim 10:**



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Linkstimes further discloses the tee time posting system according to Claim 9 wherein the input interface comprises a plurality of web form check boxes associated with respective elements in the list of future tee times (page 8).

**Referring to Claim 11:**

Linkstimes further discloses the tee time posting system according to Claim 9 wherein the input interface comprises a plurality of web form radio buttons associated with respective elements in the list of future tee times (page 8, step 1).

**Referring to Claim 12:**

Linkstime further discloses the tee time posting system according to Claim 7 wherein the course input web pages are secured so that access by the golf course web browsers to the course input web pages may be controlled (page 1, Log In, Member Program \_Course Managers and Pros Only)

**Referring to Claims 13 and 14:**

Germain further discloses the tee time posting system according to Claim 7 wherein the course input web pages indicate which of the available tee times have previously been posted to the tee time reservations hub (Fig. 8, (150, 152) and wherein the web server further comprises a tee time template, and wherein the web server is further adapted to enable a golf course to create the tee time template using the respective golf course web browser (Fig. 6).

**Referring to Claim 17:**

Linkstime further discloses the golf tee time posting method according to Claim 15 further comprising the step of assigning a web page address to the golf course (page 1, links).

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Whyel (US2001/0027481) discloses a method and system for electronic reservation scheduling.

Gramann et al. (2001/0049613) discloses a reservation system for calendar driven services.

Derwent Account No. 2001-45253565 discloses a golf course reservation control system using the internet.

PR Newswire, ClubCorp Selects Software Product Suite; New Technology Will Support Golf, Tennis, and Athletic Operations.

[www.book4golf.com](http://www.book4golf.com) - on line tee time reservation link

[www.awagolf.com](http://www.awagolf.com) - on line tee time reservation link

Greens.com Announces strategic Alliances and synergistic acquisitions to creat one-stop worldwide golf shop for Tee Time Reservations

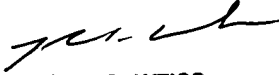
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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jan Mooneyham whose telephone number is (703) 305-8554. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Weiss can be reached on (703) 308-2702. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-1113.

jm

  
**JOHN G. WEISS**  
**SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER**  
**TECHNOLOGY CENTER JR**